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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 7 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1925 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, 12th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Our retiring Honorary President, Dr. Tracy I. Storer, will come from Davis to visit us and he has agreed to favor us with one of his interesting talks upon some features of his work. Visitors will be made welcome.

* * *

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Easton on Sunday, February 15th. Party will form at corner of Fifth and Market Sts., San Francisco, to take motor bus leaving there about 8:55 a. m. East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:20 and take car up Market to Fifth St. Bring lunch and canteens, filled. Leave bus at Easton Drive. Walk to top of ridge for lunch; to San Andreas Lake and back to highway at Uncle Tom's Cabin, about nine miles. Bus fare twenty-five cents each way. If rain is falling at leaving time for bus, the trip will be postponed until the following Sunday, February 22d.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: The eighth annual meeting of the Association was held on January 8th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Pettit, Acting Secretary; Twelve members and five guests in attendance.

The President gave a brief account of the Proceedings of the National Game Conference which was held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on December 8th and 9th, last.

Past Honorary President Harry S. Swarth then entertained the meeting with an account of his sojourn in the Atlin district of British Columbia, in company of Major Allan Brooks during the season of 1924. The lecture was illustrated by numerous lantern slides, showing the habitat features and the outstanding events of the expedition. It is to be regretted that lack of space precludes the possibility of recording here a full account of the trip, which was replete with interesting situations and events.

Following the lecture, officers and directors for 1925 were elected, as follows:

Honorary President	Joseph Mailliard
President	A. S. Kibbe
First Vice-President	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly
Second Vice-President	Miss M. S. Pettit
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Carl R. Smith
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto
Treasurer	C. R. Thomas
Director	Carl R. Smith

Director ..... Miss D. Schroder
Director ..... A. C. Schindler

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

We pause once more to-night to review our record during the passage of another fiscal year, the eighth of our Association's existence. Our routine program has been consistently sustained, in our regular meetings with interesting lectures and discussions; in our monthly field trips, the report on which you have just heard, and in the regular publication of our monthly bulletin, "The Gull." 1924 was an interesting year, moreover, because of the number and variety of important problems, toward the solution of which we were able to contribute in a measure.

Among these might be mentioned the proposed McIlhenny shooting club, adjacent to large bird refuges on the Gulf Coast; the ill-advised offer of a bounty on sparrow hawks by an enthusiastic bird-lover of San Francisco; the equally ill-advised and more vicious campaign inaugurated by the Du Pont-de Nemours Powder Co. against crows and some eighteen or twenty other birds or mammals during the closed season; the abatement of oil pollution of coastal and inland waters and on land areas as well; the fascinating and useful work of bird-banding; the restoration of Lower Klamath Lake; the preservation of the Klamath river from dams destructive of fish spawning, and, first and last, the Migratory Game Refuge Bill, toward the passage of which the hopes and expectations of bird-lovers, conservationists, game authorities and sportsmen throughout the country are now again directed.

The Association is to be congratulated in the respects of so rich a field in which to labor, and of the response it has made to these summons to service. Ground has been gained in every case still unsettled and the prospects of success are encouraging all along the battle line.

Happy in this realization, and grateful for the interest shown and the help extended by our membership and others, let us put our shoulders to the wheel, resolved to make 1925 the very best year in the history of our Association, in growth and in usefulness. Many hands make light work and organization spells efficiency.

Bird-lovers can best serve their feathered friends by identifying themselves with some such organization as ours and in working intelligently for this outcome, we are contributing to our own prosperity and enjoyment and, as well, to the benefit of future generations.

A. S. Kibbe.

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REPORT OF THE OUTING COMMITTEE FOR 1924

The following places were visited once each on the regular monthly field trips: Lake Merritt, Easton, San Andreas Lake and Millbrae, Sausalito, Tennessee Cove and ridge to north, Claremont Canyon, Baumberg and Lake Merced. Two trips were made to Golden Gate Park and to Lake Lagunitas, the latter once by way of Lake Alpine and again by way of Ross Valley. A trip was made twice to Lansdale, on the second occasion the return being made by way of Cascades, Fairfax and Manor.

123 different species, averaging 37 different species per trip were observed on the twelve outings taken during 1924. Lake Merritt trip in January was the most popular in attendance. The largest number of species was seen on the February Easton trip—56 in number, followed by March trip to Lansdale, Lakes Alpine, Lagunitas and Phoenix, with a record of 46 species. During the past year our field parties have encountered three species not previously included in our lists: Dusky warbler, Pigmy nuthatch and White fronted goose.

There was a slight decrease in members attending trips over last year, 36 as against 37 in 1923. The average for members attending, however, reached 10 as against 9 in last year, and the average guests for 1924 was 8 as against 6 for 1924.

The hope is repeated for 1924 that the interest shown by our guests will bear fruit in their taking active membership in our Association, and again it is hoped that the members who are instrumental in so interesting guests will endeavor to bring this good work about.

The Committee is appreciative of the assistance rendered during the last year and pleads for a furtherance thereof and additional help on the part of the older and more experienced leaders.

CENSUS OF BIRDS' NESTS IN THE MUSIC CONCOURSE

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, for 1924

Previous reports in GULL, January, '20; February, '21; March, '23; January, '24.

The condition of the trees in the Music Concourse was watched daily in the first half of December, 1924, and on the 15th of that month it was decided that sufficient leaves had fallen to expose to view practically all of the nests that had been built in the previous spring and early summer.

The census showed only 35 nests, but few of which appeared to have contained a brood fully reared. The nests had been rained on repeatedly and some were in a more or less disintegrated state. Of others, it was difficult to determine the builders, because the materials used in construction, obtained as they were from a man-made park, differed somewhat from those which an observer would expect to find used by certain species where they had freer access, at least, to natural surroundings.

As far as could be judged, the species of the builders and the status of the nests were about as follows: brood evidently raised, 3 Linnet, 3 Nuttall's Sparrow; containing remains of dead young, 2 Linnet, 1 unidentified; containing broken or unhatched eggs, 4 Nuttall's Sparrow; in which there was no trace of young having been hatched, 4 Linnet, 5 Nuttall's Sparrow, 1 Robin; unfinished, 1 Linnet, 1 unidentified; of unknown status, 1 Linnet, 2 English Sparrow, 1 Nuttall's Sparrow, 2 Western Chipping Sparrow, 2 Robin, 2 unidentified.

Whether the unusually dry season had anything to do with this poor showing in the matter of raising young, or whether the increasing number of fox squirrels was the main factor in the case can only be surmised. Probably it was a combination of both.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.
California Academy of Sciences.

OIL UPON THE WATERS

Through the courtesy of Capt. H. W. Rhodes, Superintendent of Lighthouses, 18th District, we are in receipt of the following communication, which directs renewed attention to the most serious phase of our oil pollution problem:

1. Under date of January 22d the keeper of the Farallon Island Light Station reports as follows:

> "I respectfully report that within the last week a large quantity of crude oil has been noticeable on the water here. Many birds have been visiting the island for the last ten days, and most of the diving species which have been feeding here during the last week have been caught in this slime.
>
> "The rocks and beaches are lined with wandering birds covered with crude oil. The numbers of the birds run into the hundreds, and it is a pitiful sight to see them, all doomed to slow starvation.
>
> "I am unable to state from what direction the crude oil came."

2. As your organization has been interested in the past in ascertaining which vessels are responsible for oil in the vicinity of the Farallon Islands this matter is reported to you for such action as you may desire to take.

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 11th, to Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen. The day was again clear, fine and cool and the party of satisfactory dimensions. The entire party watched the water fowl until noon and then separated into two sections, one of which was led up through the glen by Mrs. Kelly.

Birds encountered were: Red-tailed and sparrow hawks, flicker, Anna hummer, coast and California jays; Brewer blackbirds in swarms around the feeding pen; linnet, Nuttall sparrow, junco, song and fox sparrows; San Francisco and brown towhees, Audubon and Townsend warblers and Vigors wren; titmouse, bush-tit, ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush and robin. Twenty-two land species and the same fifteen wild water species as specified in census below. It being impossible to take a count during the trip, the writer returned on the 18th for this purpose and the results are given below. It is a notable fact that the total number of water birds was about one thousand less on the latter day.

Members present were: Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Olive Burroughs, Sterne, Paroni and Harcourt; Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Mexia, Parry and Smith; Messrs. Kibbe, Smith and Ananda Jacobs. As guests: The Misses Bastian and Gertrude Bastian, Mrs. Furlong, Miss Furlong and Mrs. Pletcher; Dr. Goodman, Bodo von Berkerfeldt, Fritz Eads, Felix Jacobs and Elmer Payne. Thirteen members and eleven guests.

The census of January 18th follows:

Eared grebes	125
Pied-billed grebes	4
Western gull	1
California gulls	200
Ring-billed gulls	4
Glaucous-winged gulls	30
Mallards and hybrids	24
Baldpates	550
Shovellers	90
Pintails	1200
Canvas-backs	400
Scaup	150
American golden-eye	1
Buffle-heads	22
Ruddy ducks	500
Coots	500
Total number	3801

A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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